

# Workforce News

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Workforce Services



**Mountainland: Summit, Utah, Wasatch**

**jobs.utah.gov**



## Technology Driving Economy



### Inside:

- ✦ Wasatch growth tops Mountainland region.
- ✦ Summit sees fastest job growth since 1994.
- ✦ Rock-bottom unemployment in Utah County



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In the Mountainland counties (Summit, Utah, and Wasatch), the labor market continues to be characterized by extremely low unemployment and robust job growth, expanding across all major industrial sectors except the information industry. Employers are finding it increasingly difficult to fully staff their enterprises in such a tight labor market. When the demand for labor exceeds supply, its price—wages—will increase, as employers compete for the available workers.

Over the past two-to-three years, it has primarily been the goods-producing industries of construction, mining, and manufacturing that have been propelling the economy forward. Of course, there has been significant support to economic growth from service-producing industries, most notably: trade, transportation, and utilities, financial

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Find detailed wage information for occupations in Utah: <http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/goto0ccwage.do>

# Technology Driving Economy

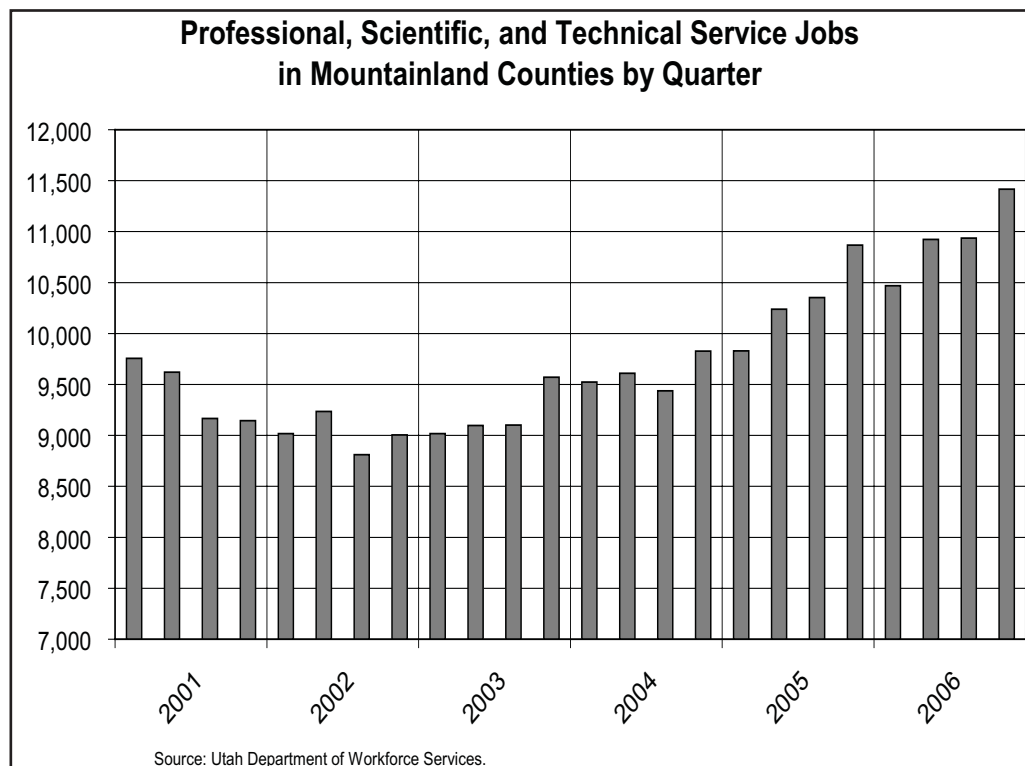
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activities, professional and business services, and healthcare.

During 2006, one industry group—professional, scientific and technical services—is particularly notable due to the varied, high-skill, high-wage services and occupations it encompasses. This sector increased by 620 new jobs, growing by 6 percent.

Professional, scientific, and technical services (PST services) comprises about 46 percent of the major industrial sector—professional and business services, employing 11,000 people in the Mountainland counties. The largest services in this diverse industry group include custom computer programming, consulting, marketing and public opinion research, engineering, legal, accounting, and computer system design.

During the last recession and slow-growth years from 2001 to 2003, the PST services sector was significantly impacted, losing 1,400 jobs from its peak employment (9,800) in March 2001. This industry hit a low of 8,600 jobs in September of



2002. Over the next two years PST services was able to gain back the jobs lost during the recession. On average, the pace of expansion increased during 2005 and 2006. By the end of last year, employment in PST services had reached 11,535. Of the 620 new PST services jobs created in 2006, the largest gainers were marketing consulting, engineering, custom computer programming and scientific research.

The growing, high-skilled services that make up the professional, scientific, and technical industry have been a major contributor to the economic vitality that this region, and the state, currently enjoy.

## Check it Out

There's a gold mine of information for businesses on our Employer Resource Center Web page:

<http://jobs.utah.gov/employer/resource/>

# County News

**Utah County:** With very favorable job growth over the last couple of years unemployment has declined to very low levels. In 2006, the unemployment rate averaged just 2.8 percent, dropping from revised rates of 4.0 percent in 2005. There were 5,924 residents of Utah County unemployed in 2006, out of a total estimated labor force of 212,422.

The economy in Utah County continued to produce strong and steady job growth for a third consecutive year. Total non-farm jobs grew by about 5.3 percent, averaging employment gains of 8,910 for the year over 2005. The estimated total number of payroll jobs in the county was 176,815.

The strongest job growth is occurring in construction, increasing by more than 2,375, or growth of about 18.1 percent. Other industries with a significant number of new jobs compared to 2005 are trade, manufacturing, professional/business services, private education, and healthcare.

**Summit County:** In 2006, the unemployment rate averaged just 2.8 percent, dropping from revised rates of 4.0 percent in 2005. There were 618 residents of Summit County unemployed in 2006, out of a total estimated labor force of 22,068.

During 2006, there were about 1,725 new payroll jobs created in Summit County, growing by 9.1 percent over 2005. This is the fastest job growth rate since 1994. The industrial sectors providing most of the new jobs were leisure/hospitality, construction, and trade.

**Wasatch County:** In 2006, the unemployment rate averaged just 3.1 percent, dropping from revised rates of 4.2 percent in 2005. There were 305 residents of Wasatch County unemployed in 2006, out of a total estimated labor force of 9,942.

Of the Mountainland counties, Wasatch County job growth was again the fastest in 2006, at 13.1 percent, or about 755 more jobs. In 2005, jobs increased by 471, or by almost 9 percent. Three industries supplied the bulk of job increases compared to 2005—construction, trade, leisure/hospitality.

## What's Up?



Construction of the \$18-million justice center, which will house the Spanish Fork Police Department and courtrooms for 4th District Court, has begun. When completed in July 2008, the justice center will be the centerpiece on a 13-acre plot of land the city acquired earlier this year with the intention of creating a centralized campus for future city buildings.

– Deseret Morning News



Developer John Q. Hammons has unveiled plans for a convention center and hotel site in Pleasant Grove. The Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center will be a 14-story, 300-suite, \$100-million project and will be located on the southeast corner of the Pleasant Grove interchange, at exit 275 on I-15.

– Deseret Morning News



The Phoenix-based Athens Group development firm will turn the old 16-acre Daly Mine dump into the 50,000-square-foot Montage Hotel & Resort, where lodging could go to \$2,000 a night—or more. The Montage will sport 94 residences and 178 guest rooms and suites. The project, constructed under “green” guidelines, breaks ground this summer.

– Park Record



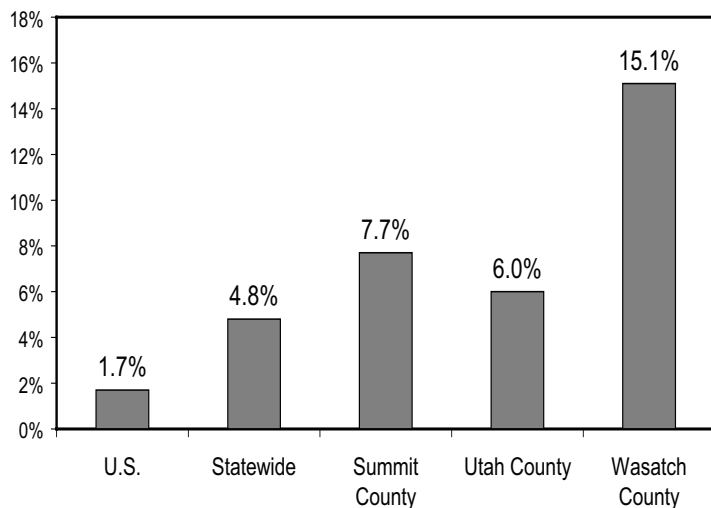
According to U.S. Census Bureau population estimates, Wasatch County ranked as the 54<sup>th</sup> fastest-growing county in the U.S., with a growth rate of roughly 4.6 percent to 18,974 people. Growth is measured from July 1, 2004 to July 1, 2005.

– Deseret Morning News

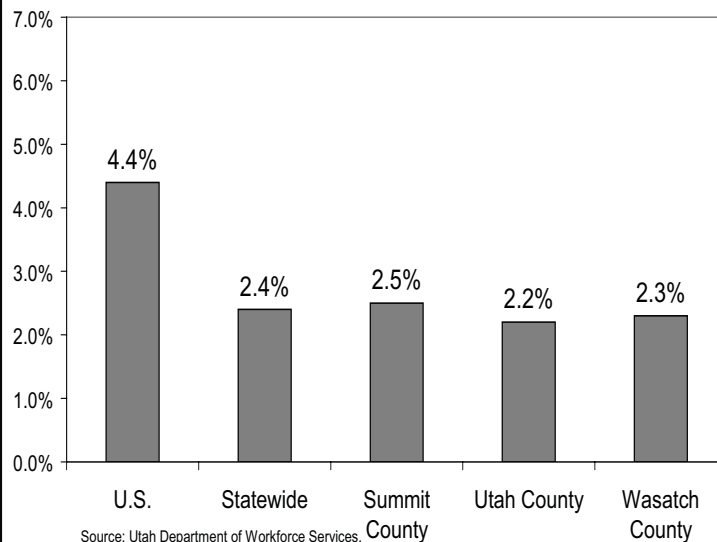
Mountainland: Summit, Utah, Wasatch

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Non-farm Job Growth:  
December 2005 to December 2006



March 2007 Unemployment Rate  
(seasonally adjusted)



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